(ख) 1.4.98 से 31.10.98 तक कुल 610 नए स्थानों में एस० टी० डी० सुविधा प्रदान कर दी गई है।

(ग) और (घ) टी० आर० ए० आई० अधिनियम, 1997 के अधीन गठित भारतीय दूरसंचार नियामक प्राधिकरण को दूरसंचार सेवाओं की दरें निर्धारित करने की शक्ति प्राप्त है। प्राधिकरण ने दूरसंचार टैरिफ पर एक परामर्श दस्तावेज निकाला है जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ लम्बी दूरी की कॉल प्रभारों में कमी करने का भी प्रस्ताव है। टैरिफ ढाँचों को अंतिम रूप देने से पूर्व टी० आर० ए० आई० ने सेवा प्रदाताओं, उपभोक्ता संगठनों तथा आम जनता से परामर्श लेने की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है ताकि इस बारे में उनके विचार सुनिश्चित किए जा सकें। टी० आर० ए० आई० द्वारा अधिसूचित किए जाने वाले टैरिफ पर निर्णय लेने की समय-सीमा परामर्श प्रक्रिया पर निर्भर करती है।

**Modernisation of Post Offices**

529. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to modernise and improve certain post offices in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the idea behind improving the post offices of the capital only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Modernisation of Post Offices has been taken up as a part of the plan activities of the Department since the 8th Five Year Plan to enhance working ambience and ergonomics of the post offices all over the country for greater customer satisfaction and to increase productivity of the employees. Accordingly, for the current financial year, 8 post offices of Delhi Circle have been identified for modernisation and 52 post offices in other parts of the country.

**Licences to Private Internet Companies**

530. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to give licences to private internet companies, if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(b) the names of treating private companies presently operating in the company and rules governing their operation;

(c) whether it is a fact that the private companies are not satisfied with VSNL MTNL functioning and have in fact requested for satellite use directly, if so, the reaction of Government on their request; and

(d) what would be the implications of direct use of satellite by such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. A synopsis of the terms and conditions is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The new Internet Policy has been announced on 6th November, 1998. Till date 19 licences have been issued to private companies. A list of these companies is given in Statement-II (*See* below). M/s. Satyam Infoway who were given a licence on 12th November, 98 have launched their services at Hyderabad on 22.11.98. Many other companies plan to do so in the near future. The synopsis of the terms and conditions of their operations are Statement-III (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No request has been received from any of the ISPs for direct use of satellite circuits. However, any proposal received from them will be examined in the light of Satcom Policy and also of interference with other agencies using the same frequency spectrum for communication, broadcast etc.

**Statement-I**

**Synopsis of Terms and Conditions—ISP**

(a) Any Indian company with a maximum foreign equity of 49% is eligible.

(b) Category 'AA' Service Area-whole of India, Category 'B' Service Area-20 territorial Telecom Circles, Metros-Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai and four major cities-Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune. Category 'C' Service Area-in secondary switching areas of DOT.

(c) An applicant company may be granted any number of licences and there will be no limit of number of licences granted in a particular area.

(d) Application from costs Rs. 1000/-. Processing fee per application is Rs. 5000/-

(e) Period of licence-15 years.

(f) Licence fee-waived for first 5 years and Re. 1/- per annum for subsequent period.

(g) Bank Guarantee-Rs. 2 crores for Category 'A' Service Area, Rs. 20 lakhs for Category 'B' Service Area and Rs. 3 lakhs for Category 'C' Service Area.

(h) International connectivity—Through gateways of DOT, VSNL or authorised public/Government organisation. Private ISPs are allowed to provide gateways after obtaining security clearance.

(i) Establishment of transmission links—Private ISPs can obtain transmission links on lease from DOT, licences Basic Service Operator, Railways, State Electricity Boards, National Power Grid Corporation etc. They may also establish their own transmission links, provided they are not available from authorised sources and subject to permission of authority.

**Statement-II**

*List of Private Companies who have been issued ISP Licence*

| Sl. No. | Name of Company | Category | Service Area |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | M/s. ORTEL COMMN. LTD | 'C' | Bhubaneswar |
| 2. | M/s. ROLTA India Ltd | 'B' | Mumbai |
| 3. | M/s. Surevin Consultants (P) Ltd., | 'C' | Ghaziabad |
| 4. | M/s. United Internet Commn. (P) Ltd., Mumbai | 'C' | Jaipur |
| 5. | M/s. Bareilly Commn. (P) Ltd | 'C' | Bareilly |
| 6. | M/s. Paliwal Financial Services (P) Ltd., Panipat | 'C' | Karnal |
| 7. | M/s. Somani Overseas Ltd., Surat | 'C' | Surat |
| 8. | M/s. Arun Girija Commn. (P) Ltd., Patna | 'C' | Patna |
| 9. | M/s. Kinjaru Applicances (P) Ltd. Ahmedabad | 'C' | Rajkot |
| 10. | M/s. Eleclipse Net-work Pvt. Ltd. | B' | Ahmedabad |
| 11. | M/s. Weikfield Memonix Infonetworks Pvt. Ltd., | 'B' | Pune |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12. | M/s. S.N.C. Infotech Pvt. Ltd., Ghaziabad | 'C' | Ghaziabad |
| 13. | M/s. Zaverchand Cyber Infotech (P) Ltd. | 'C' | Vadodara |
| 14. | Srishti Open Systems (P) Ltd. TVM | 'C' | Trivandrum |
| 15. | M/s. Sukhkarta Fin. Trade Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai | 'A' | All India |
| 16. | M/s. Trikon Electronics Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai | 'B' | Mumbai |
| 17. | M/s. Suchibh Communications Pvt. Ltd., Satara (M.P.) | 'C' | Satara |
| 18. | M/s. Satyam Infoway (P) Ltd. Chennai | 'A' | All India |
| 19. | M/s. S.K. Digital Technology Pvt. Ltd., Durgapur (W.B.) | 'C' | Durgapur |

'A' 2
'B' 4
'C' 13
19

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**Statement III**

SYNOPSIS OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ISP OPERATIONS

(1) The Licensee shall be solely responsible for installation, networking and operation of necessary equipment and systems, treatment of subscribers complaints, issue of bills to its subscribers, collection of the revenue, attending to claims and damages arising out of the services provided by him.

(2) The Licensee shall be free to fix his own tariff to be charged from subscribers. The tariff shall be left open to be decided by market forces. However, the TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) may review and fix a tariff at any time during the validity of the licence which shall be binding on the Licensee.

(3) The licence is issued on non-exclusive basis *i.e.* other vendors may be granted licence for the same service in the same area at the discretion of the Licensor. DOT itself or through a designated Public Authority, has the right to operate the serivce in any/all service areas.

(4) Individuals or groups of organisations both in private and Government sectors are permitted to deploy, indigenus of imported, encryption and equipments for providing secrecy in transmission up to a level of encryption to be specified by Telecom Authority. However, if encryption equipments of level higher than specified are to be deployed, individuals/groups/organisations shall obtain Government clearance and shall deposit one set of keys with the Telecom Authority.

(5) The Licensee will have to abide by the security consideration which has been spelt out in detail in the Licence Agreement.

(6) Telephony on the Internet: Telephony on the Internet is not permitted. The licence will be liable for termination for any violation of this clause of the Licence Agreement. The licensee shall also take measures on his own and as and when directed by the Government at his own cost to bar carriage of Telephone trafficf over Internet.

(7) The Licensee shall be governed by the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 & Telecom Regulatory Authority Act, 1997.

(8) The acceptance testing of any interface equipment connected to the DOT network will be carried out by the DOT.

(9) ISP may provide Internet service to any VSAT subscriber within the service area.

(10) Access to Internet through authorized cable operator permitted.

(11) Last mile linkages freely permitted within local area either by Fibre Optic or Radio Communication. Detailed terms and conditions governing the operations are part of Licence Agreement.

**Modernisation of Postal and telecom services in NER**

531. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of steps contemplated to expand and modernise postal and telephone services in the North-East Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): *Postal*

(a) During the Annual Plan 1998-99, a target for opening 106 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices, 6 Departmental Sub Post Offices has been fixed for the North East Region including Sikkim subject to availability of resources.

(b) During this Annual Plan, development programmes have also been chalked out for modernisation of Post Offices in the North East Region and Sikkim comprising the North East and Assam Postal Circles and the Sikkim State of West Bengal Postal Circle. Out of the following targets for all India implementation, 10% has been earmarked for the region:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | PC-based multi-purpose Counter Machines | 500 |
| (ii) | Installation of Savings Bank local area networks. | 100 |
| (iii) | Installation of Stamp cancellation machines. | 20 |
| (iv) | Supply of Electronic Franking Machines. | 150 |
| (v) | Hand Stamps Cancellors | 10000 |

Besides 10% of the above targets being allocated to the North East Region and Sikkim, there is also a proposal to install one VSAT Station at Ita Nagar for Satellite Money Transfers.

*Telecom:*

The details of steps contemplated by the Government for expansion and modernisation of Telecommunications services in North-East Region during the 9th Plan period (1997-2002) are given below:—

(A) 1. To Provide Telephone on demand by the year 2000.
2. To provide telephone facility in all the villages by 2002.
3. To provide STD facility to all the Exchanges.
4. To computerise trunk services in all the SSA Headquarters.
5. Use of optical Fibre technologies extensively in the network.
6. Introduction of better and reliable technologies for providig villages telephones.
7. To have reliable media for all exchanges.
8. Computerised billing and accounting in all the divisions.
9. To modernise fault repair service.
10. To computerise Directory enquiry services in all the SSAs.
11. To give priority for telecom facility in sensitive Border areas.
Tribal and Hilly areas and Industrial Growth Centres.

(B) 1. Physical targets of various development parameters for 1998-99 in respect of North East Telecom Circle and Assam Telecom Circle are given below:—